

SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

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Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors, December 12, 1936

A MEETING of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club was held at the club room, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, California, on Saturday, December 12, 1936, from 10 o'clock in the morning until noon and from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. All of the directors of the Club were present, namely, Directors Adams, Bernays, Clark, Colby, Dawson, Farquhar, Hildebrand, Huber, LeConte, McDuffie, Merrill, Parsons, Price, Robinson, Tappaan. There were also present by invitation during portions of the meeting William J. Murray, Opal V. Sharman, Elmo A. Robinson, chairmen of the Southern California, San Francisco Bay, and Loma Prieta chapters, respectively; Walter A. Starr, Chairman of the High Sierra Trails Committee; Sidney S. Bymel, President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs; William G. Schulz, Western Representative of The Emergency Conservation Committee of New York; Arthur H. Blake, Chairman of the Mountain Records Committee, and Richard M. Leonard. President Dawson called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting of the Board, held May 2, 1936, were approved as published in the May, 1936, SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN.

Mr. Colby reported a membership increase, the number of members on December 1, 1936 being as follows: Southern California Chapter 906; San Francisco Bay Chapter 1,283; Loma Prieta Chapter 138; Riverside Chapter 59; general 208; total 2,594.

Mr. Huber reported that more had been spent than budgeted due to contribution and loan to the Clair Tappaan Lodge Fund and the increased allotment for the bimonthly SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN, both authorized at the May meeting, and a transfer of funds to the Lodge Current Fund to help meet the expenses of maintaining custodians at these lodges during the summer months and making some improvements to the log cabin on the Soda Springs property at Tuolumne Meadows, but that sufficient income had been received to cover these additional expenditures.

A written report prepared by Emerson L. Holt, past-chairman of the Riverside Chapter, was read, and Mrs. Sharman, Mr. Murray and Mr. Robinson reported on the activities of the other three chapters. Mr. Murray told of the destruction by fire, on the night of September 20, of the ski hut built a year

ago on Mount San Antonio. However, with the insurance money of \$500 toward the purchase of materials and with volunteer labor, a new ski hut is almost complete and will be ready for use this winter. In addition, a new copper roof was put on Harwood Lodge, the necessary funds having been raised by special benefit affairs. He presented the chapter's request for financial assistance amounting to \$50 per month in order that the Southern California Chapter may secure more suitable headquarters in Los Angeles.

Mr. Robinson, Chairman of the Winter Sports Committee, was called on for a report. He called attention to the fact that his committee has, since its beginning, fostered the idea of cross-country touring and winter mountaineering and the opening up of high mountain regions for winter recreation. In this connection his committee has coöperated with the U. S. Forest Service which is anxious to open up additional regions for winter sports. He hoped that within a year or so roads will be kept open into the Echo Lake country and the Herring Creek area near Pinecrest. The committee is planning several exploratory trips to determine a route for a ski-trail into the Yuba River country and from Tahoe to Yosemite Valley. The committee urges that shelters be established at eight-mile intervals along winter trail routes by the public agencies. Mr. Robinson also reported that the ski-tests adopted by the Sierra Club three years ago have since been adopted by the California Ski Association and the National Ski Association. He commended the members of the Southern California Chapter for having rebuilt the hut on Mount San Antonio and hoped that additional huts of this character may be constructed on some of the other high mountains in the southern part of the state. In

order that the Winter Sports Committee may develop a series of trails on the northern slopes of Signal Peak, near the Tappaan Lodge, the officers of the Sierra Club were authorized to execute a permit acquiring such right, a fee of \$5 per year to be paid from Clair Tappaan Lodge funds to the Southern Pacific Company which controls the lands in question. At the May meeting it was voted that the Sierra Club join the California Ski Association should the Winter Sports Committee deem it advisable, and this was done a few months ago. The treasurer was authorized to pay annual dues of \$25, beginning with 1936, to the California Ski Association.

A letter from Oliver Kehrlein reporting on the work of the Glacier Study Committee was read and his request for an allotment of \$10 to cover the cost of photographs to be attached to his annual report which is sent to the Geophysical Union was granted. The directors expressed their appreciation of this work.

Mr. Farquhar reported on the work of the Editorial Committee, both in connection with the bimonthly numbers of the *SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN* and plans for the 1937 magazine number. The directors commented favorably on the improved appearance and increase in number of pages of the bimonthly numbers, the result of the increased allotment authorized at the May meeting.

Mr. Colby, Chairman of the Outing Committee, reported on the finances of the 1936 Sierra Club outing. Although there was a net loss due to a number of reasons, there is still a surplus in the outing fund and the equipment is now in fair shape, new stoves and other equipment having been purchased before the 1936 outing. There have been many requests during the past six or eight

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years for a repetition of the 1924 Glacier National Park outing and such a trip should be very successful, if tentative plans are carried out. Mr. Colby, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Tappaan all resigned from the Outing Committee, due to press of professional work and other activities. Mr. Colby stated that he was resigning with a great deal of regret and would always be ready to give assistance to the new committee, particularly in connection with the proposed outing to Glacier Park. The resignations were regretfully accepted and a motion was passed that a committee be appointed to draft a resolution of appreciation for the 35 years of service given by Mr. Colby in the matter of the annual outings, and also the service given by Mr. Tappaan and Mr. Adams. Mr. Price and Mr. McDuffie were appointed to serve on this committee.

Mr. Clark reported as chairman of the general Lodge Committee and the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee as follows: Mr. F. C. Holman was again custodian of the LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley during the summer months; Mr. Albert G. Dahme, of Parsons Lodge and the Soda Springs property, in Tuolumne Meadows; Morgan Harris, of Shasta Alpine Lodge during the first part of the summer, succeeded by William B. Cooke for the remaining weeks. Taking advantage of the presence in Tuolumne Meadows of men working for the government, a concrete floor, new door and window were put in the log cabin near the stone building on the Soda Springs property, and Mr. Duhme made some other improvements. Members wishing to use these buildings in the winter must be properly qualified skiers, secure permission from the Lodge Committee, and pay a per diem rate. An annex to the Clair Tappaan Lodge at

Norden has been built by volunteer labor of club members; contributions from members amounting to approximately \$550 and the contribution and loan voted by the Sierra Club were used toward the purchase of materials. The committee has secured the services of two brothers, Frederick and William Klein, both trained in Austria, as caretakers and ski-instructors; both class and private instruction will be given. A special vote of thanks was given Mr. Joseph C. Staudinger by the directors for the great amount of work and wholehearted devotion he has given the Clair Tappaan Lodge. The Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, subject to approval by the Executive Committee, was authorized to negotiate with the Southern Pacific Land Company to secure an adequate water supply. The Executive Committee was authorized to make a loan to the Clair Tappaan Lodge if it becomes necessary to pay outstanding lumber bills before sufficient funds are received from other sources.

Mr. Starr, Chairman of the High Sierra Trails Committee, reported that he had called for information from members as to trail improvement needed in various parts of the Sierra and had made a report to the U. S. Forest Service. Upon consulting with Prof. LeConte and others, he recommended that new trails, instead of being built on too high a standard as has been the tendency of late, should conform more or less to the contours of the country, affording an easy and pleasant way of traveling through the mountains. Mr. Starr stated that the Forest Service plans, the first thing in the spring, to replace the bridge across the San Joaquin above Piute Creek, which has been out for two years, and to complete the John Muir Trail during the summer.

Mr. Bymel, President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, advised that the

California Alpine Club had invited the Federation to California, to have its sixth annual convention over next Labor Day in the San Francisco Bay region, using the Alpine Lodge of the California Alpine Club, in Marin County, as headquarters. He also proposed that a caravan trip be planned for the delegates, to be taken at the close of the convention to the High Sierra, visiting Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, Lake Tahoe, and ending at the Clair Tappaan Lodge, and invited the cooperation and assistance of the Sierra Club in making the convention and following trip a success. A motion was passed that Mr. Dawson appoint a committee to aid in carrying out these plans and that the Sierra Club cooperate fully. Arthur H. Blake was appointed chairman of this special committee.

It was voted that the Sierra Club approves the preservation and acquisition by the government of as much as possible of the privately owned sugar pine forest along the western boundary and outside Yosemite National Park, to be added to the park, and the Club recommends to Congress that it act favorably in this matter.

Mr. Blake reported that the Mountain Records Committee of 18 members is divided into several sub-committees. The book-type register boxes previously authorized for specific peaks were all placed with the exception of those for Mounts Ritter and Sill; in addition, new cylinder-type containers were purchased, 12 of which have been placed. He suggested new book-type registers be secured for the following: Clouds Rest, Eagle Peak, Mount Starr King, North Dome, Mount Hoffmann, Mount Shasta, Telescope Peak, and one of the peaks on Mount Russell. Final decision was left by the directors to the committee. An allot-

ment of \$75 was voted the Mountain Records Committee for 1937. Mr. Blake reported also that the committee is making progress on the climbers' guide. It is planned to publish the guide in sections in the *SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN*, and it can later on be got out in book form, if desirable and feasible, this preliminary publication allowing opportunity for corrections and additions before final publication. In this work need has been felt for assistance in nomenclature and a sub-committee has been designated with Richard M. Leonard as chairman. A motion was passed that the Mountain Records Committee be constituted a Committee on Nomenclature. Approval was given to the committee's proposal to name a peak in memory of the late Walter A. Starr, Jr. Authority was given the committee to take steps to effect the restoration on maps of the name "Mount Langley," as approved at the May, 1932 meeting of the Board, in place of "Mount Corcoran." Authority was given the committee to distinguish certain pinnacles of the Sawtooth Range by giving them names, in order to aid in the preparation of the guide to this region.

The meeting was adjourned to 1:30.

Mr. Dawson presented the name of Richard M. Leonard as chairman of the Outing Committee and his appointment was ratified by the Board of Directors. Mr. Dawson was authorized to appoint the other members of the committee. Because the by-laws call for an outing committee of three members and it was felt desirable to increase this number, a motion was passed that steps be taken to amend the by-laws authorizing a committee of five members. The following committee was empowered to draw up this and any other amendments in connection with the relationship of the outing to the Sierra Club

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that may seem desirable: William E. Colby, Francis P. Farquhar, Richard M. Leonard, Bestor Robinson, Francis D. Tappaan.

Dr. Hildebrand presented a detailed report on the trip made by himself and Walter A. Starr, Phil S. Bernays and Ellis R. Hawkins, representing the Sierra Club, into the Kings River Canyon and vicinity last summer. This trip was organized and sponsored by the United States Forest Service and the Club representatives were its guests. Dr. Hildebrand, speaking for himself and the other guests, expressed the greatest appreciation for the splendid way in which the trip was organized and handled. His report furnished the basis for the following resolution which was thereupon adopted:

Resolved by the Directors of the Sierra Club:

I. That we express to the California Regional Forest Service our appreciation of the hospitality extended to the representatives of the Sierra Club during the trip to the Kings River Canyon last July and of the opportunity thus afforded to discuss the plans of the Forest Service for the administration of this territory.

II. That, while we are still of the opinion that the Kings River Canyon is of national park calibre, comparable to the Yosemite and other great scenic national parks, an opinion also shared by both Col. Henry S. Graves and Col. William B. Greeley, former Chiefs of the United States Forest Service, and as stated by them at hearings held before the Public Lands Committee of the House of Representatives in 1920 and 1924, respectively, yet, pending a decision by Congress as to the future administration of this region, we endorse the general features of the Master Plan for the Kings River Canyon, Sequoia National For-

est, concerning which our advice was asked, and particularly the following:

(1) The recognition of the primary claims of recreation in most parts of the district.

(2) The plan to restrict public campsites on the canyon floor to the west end as long as possible.

(3) The purpose to restrain the population of the canyon floor by providing attractive camping and cottage sites in the neighborhood of Hume and Big Meadow, with attractions of the "resort" type near Hume.

(4) The development of trails out of the east end of the canyon and in the higher country.

(5) The extension of the Primitive Area to include the Monarch Divide, the east end of Kings River Canyon, and the Sugarloaf drainage.

(6) The transfer of the service road, if such road be advisable for administration, from Sheep Creek to Indian Creek, where the scar will not be visible from the canyon floor.

III. That we urge the postponement of the proposed truck road to Rowell Meadow till such time as the full occupation of nearer campsites shall make it necessary.

IV. That we strongly urge that the areas proposed by the Forest Service to be designated as Primitive Areas be preserved in a truly primitive condition free from commercial and other conflicting uses.

V. That we urge the completion as soon as possible of the John Muir Trail.

VI. That we assure the Forest Service of our desire to administer the Sierra Club property in Kings River Canyon in such a way as to harmonize with the policies of the Forest Service and invite conferences for that purpose whenever necessary.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted and the Secretary was instructed to send copies to the Honorable Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, and to Director Arno B. Cammerer, National Park Service:

The Sierra Club, which for many years has devoted itself to the protection of the national parks and the upholding of their standards, feels grave concern over the administrative status of those parks. It fears that, with the inclusion in the National Park Service of a great number of areas of wholly different and relatively less important character, the great *natural* parks will come to have less significance in the minds of the Service as they certainly will come to have in the minds of the public; it fears also that areas inferior in character to those that now set the standard for national parks may more easily be given that category. It feels very earnestly that the unique and priceless character of these great national treasures warrants a separate and distinct name and administrative status.

The Sierra Club, therefore, respectfully suggests that a Division be created within the National Park Service to be given a distinctive name, that to this Division be assigned the administration of the nation's great natural parks only, that this Division be headed by a Field Director or, should it be deemed wise to adopt a plan of regionalization, that such plan be set up for the Division under separate and distinct regional offices.

A proposed budget for 1937 was presented by Mr. Huber and approved by the Board.

The Southern California Chapter, through its representatives, requested the sum of \$50 per month, in addition to quota based on dues, in order to secure and maintain more adequate headquarters for the Southern

California Chapter in Los Angeles. A number of the directors spoke in favor of this plan as it was felt the present office which is shared with others, is entirely inadequate. It was felt, however, that possibly the Club's income during the coming year might not be ample enough to take care of this additional expense as a permanent affair. The sum of \$200 was appropriated to be paid to the Southern California Chapter in four monthly installments of \$50 each beginning in January, to take care of the situation until the May meeting, and the chapters were instructed to prepare itemized budgets in advance of the May meeting, copies to be sent to the directors in order that they may make a thorough study of the finances of the Club and the respective chapters and form an opinion in advance of the May meeting.

Disapproval was given to a proposal to build a ski hut at Tulainyo Lake, the opinion of the Club having been requested by Col. John R. White, Superintendent of Sequoia National Park.

The following were appointed to act as the Nominating Committee to select names to be placed on the ballot at the coming election of directors of the Sierra Club: E. A. Mayers (chairman), Edward O. Allen, Dorothy H. Huggins, Robert L. Lipman, Neill C. Wilson; Alternates, Maren Aune, William T. Goldsborough.

The following were appointed judges of election to act in the counting of the ballots at the next regular election of directors: Helene Morgan (chairman), Ada S. Chaplin, Mary M. Herman, Ida E. Logan, Ella McElligott, Alice L. Meusdorffer, James A. Morgan, Violet Neuenburg, Catherine S. Tubby.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

WM. E. COLBY, *Secretary*.

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John Muir Centenary, 1938

John Muir was born in 1838, and 1938 will therefore be the centenary of his birth. Believing that California should fittingly honor him at that time, a small group met at the Hotel Durant, Berkeley, on October 9, 1936, to discuss plans for forming a John Muir centenary association. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Keeler, Dr. Willis Linn Jepson, Dr. John Wright Buckingham, Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Armstrong Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Gregorio Artieda, and Mrs. Linnie Marsh Wolfe. Although unable to be present at the first meeting, Mr. Wil-

liam E. Colby, Mrs. William Frederic Badè, and Mrs. Marian Randall Parsons have been in close touch with this preliminary group. Dr. Jepson, Dr. Hunter and Dr. Buckingham were selected as a committee to draw up a constitution, outline conditions of membership, and suggest possible names for the association. The group will meet again in the near future to receive the committee's report and to form a permanent organization. As soon as the organization becomes a fact, steps will be taken to enlarge the membership and to formulate plans for honoring John Muir during the year of 1938.

Mountain-Climbing and Nature-Study Tours in Mexico

Mr. Otis McAllister, who has for many years been a member of the Sierra Club and who founded the Club de Exploraciones de Mexico and now resides in the City of Mexico, has announced that he would be glad to arrange for organized parties of Sierra Club members and members of other American outdoor clubs to take tours through Mexico, with special emphasis on trips into the mountain regions. As an example of such a trip, Mr. McAllister suggests starting from Laredo and traveling by special bus to Monterrey, thence to Mexico City, and returning to Laredo, within a period of approximately three weeks. In the Monterrey region there would be a climb of the famous Saddle Mountain and a visit to the Huasteca Canyon and Horsetail Forest. In the vicinity of Mexico City trips would be made to the

Nevado de Toluca and the Desierto de los Leones. A climbing trip to Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl would be arranged for those desiring it. Other interesting scenic points would be visited during the trip and there would be opportunity for nature study. Mr. McAllister would accompany the trip throughout and make all arrangements. The cost would be kept as low as possible and would undoubtedly be much less than the ordinary tourist trip to Mexico. The best season for such a trip is in the fall or early winter. A minimum enrollment of twelve persons would be required. Club members who are interested in taking such a trip may obtain further information by addressing the Secretary of the Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, California; in doing so it is suggested that they express their preferences for dates.

Miscellaneous

San Francisco Bay Chapter Organization: At the annual election of the San Francisco Bay Chapter held November 13, 1936, the following were elected members of the Executive Committee of the chapter for the ensuing year: Edward O. Allen, Arthur H. Blake, E. Cecil Earle, Marjory Farquhar, Marion G. Gray, Laurance E. Haseltine, Richard G. Johnson, Clifford A. Nelson, Opal V. Sharman. At the organization meet-

ing of the committee the following were elected officers: Opal V. Sharman, chairman; Edward O. Allen, vice-chairman; Marjory Farquhar, secretary; E. Cecil Earle, treasurer. The following have been appointed chairmen of committees: Clifford A. Nelson, educational; Mabel Earle, entertainment; Carolyn Crowley, local walks; Marion G. Gray, membership; Richard G. Johnson, publicity.

Loma Prieta Chapter Organization: At the annual election of the Loma Prieta Chapter held in October, the following were elected members of the Executive Committee of the chapter: C. A. Davidson, Esther R. Firth, Bertram A. Gage, Frank H. Lewis. The holdover members are Hildreth Kotsch, A. N. Osborne, Elmo A. Robinson. At the or-

ganization meeting of the committee the following were elected officers: Elmo A. Robinson, chairman; Esther R. Firth, secretary; C. A. Davidson, treasurer. The following have been appointed chairmen of committees: Frank H. Lewis, local walks; A. N. Osborne, membership; Ruby Howe, education and entertainment; A. F. Poulter, publicity.

Southern California Chapter Organization: At the annual election of the Southern California Chapter held in November, the following were elected members of the Executive Committee of the Chapter for the ensuing year: John W. Banks, Jr., E. Stanley Jones, Richard M. Jones, Hubert J. Lansing,

Vera McLean, William J. Murray, Percy H. Nicholson, Robert J. Schonborn, Lucile Todd. The following were elected officers at the organization meeting of the committee: William J. Murray, chairman; Robert J. Schonborn, vice-chairman; Vera McLean, secretary; Hubert J. Lansing, treasurer.

Report of the Le Conte Lodge Custodian: The influx into Yosemite during the summer of 1936 exceeded all previous records, and at times crowded the hotel accommodations and the public campgrounds under a 30-day stay regulation looked like great military assemblies. As a place of interest our lodge was very popular. A number of our

members were in, among them several of the older ones. With our memories of earlier days it was a pleasure to extend such hospitality as we could. The lodge, which had been open seven days a week since early May, was closed September 15 when Camp Curry ended its season.

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